of medical education in the country is now ready;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof and whether any time limit has been fixed for submission of the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The process of formulating a National Education Policy in Health Sciences has been initiated which is inter-alia intended to cover various aspects of health manpower development suggest mechanisms for improving the quality of medical education and other connected matters.

It will be Government's endeavour to complete the exercise as early as possible.

Herbs for Treatment of Aids

1142. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recent discoveries have identified certain plants having the potential for treatment of AIDs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that research work is going on in respect of these plants and if so, the progress of the research work made in this field so far; and

(d) whether the research work in this matter is being carried on in co-operation with some other countries, if so, what are their names?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Anti-AIDs Properties have been reported in a large number of plants belonging to the family of Cucurbitaceae. Some of them are commonly used vegetables such as Memordica Charantia (Karela); Luffa acotanquala and Luffa cylindrica (Tori) and also Andrographis panculate (Kalmegh).

(c) Yes. Some Indian laboratories are investigating Indian medicinal plants for anti-AIDs activity.

(d) No Sir.

Recognition of Kasturba Medical College in Mangalore, Karnataka

1143. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kasturba Medical College in Mangalore, Karnataka has been duly recognised by the Medical Council of India;

(b) if so, when was it recognised; and

(c) whether the college fulfils the prescribed norms of the Medical Council of India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The Medical Council of India (MCI) have informed that this college was recognised in 1957 and the college fulfils the norms of the Council.

Institution for Popularisation and Expansion of Electropathy

1144. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on 14th June, 1991, the then Health and Family Welfare Minister had ordered to authorise an institution for popularisation and expansion of electropathy and also to undertake research work on electropathy, if so, what are the details of the said order;

(b) whether it is a fact that Allahabad High Court had issued stay orders against for aforesaid orders; and

(c) if so, whether the said institution is going on with its work for the purpose inspite of High Court's stay orders?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The former Dy. Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Sri Dasai Chowdhry after visiting an institute in Janakpuri, New Delhi had desired that the institute may be given recognition for development and research of Electropathy. This order was however passed without obtaining technical and administrative advice of the concerned experts in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) The Allahabad High Court had directed the Union Health Secretary to decide the issue of according recognition of the Electropathy/

Electrochomoeopathy System taking into consideration the communication from the former Dy. Minister of Health and F. W. and of the Expert Committee. In compliance with the directions, the Union Health Secretery passed a reasoned order which concluded that it was not possible to recognise the system of medicine in view of its basis infirmities. Government is not aware of the operation of any stay order.

(c) Does not arise.

Pending Cases Seeking Exemption on Imported Equipment

1145. DR. YELAMANCHELI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications pending seeking exemption of duty for imported equipment/apparatus by the clinical laboratories and medical practitioners;

(b) since when they are pending; and

(c) what are the reasons for undue delay in processing more applications ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) The procedure for grant of import duty exemption for hospital equipment was being reviewed so as to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the relevant notifications. The cases pending from February. 1993 are now being processed expeditiously.

Purchase of Additional Equipment of Cobalt Unit for Government Medical College at Aurangabad

1146. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra have requested the Government of India to sanction an amount of Rs. 169.06 lakhs for the purchase of additional equipment of Cobalt Unit for Government Medical College at Aurangabad, and

(b) if so, by when the necessary sanction is likely to be accorded ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The State Government was informed that it had not been found possible to take up the Medical College Hospital, Aurangabad under the scheme for development of Oncology Wings.

W. H. O. Report on Health Facilitities in India

1147. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the World Bank funded W. H. O. report wherein it is mantioned that though India spend U. S. $ 18 billion on health care and China Spends U. S. $ 13 billion, the health facility of China is better than India;

(b) whethar Government have conducted any study/enquiry to whether the funds are misused/diverted; and

(c) what action Government contemplate in view of this report to improve the health facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The Government is not aware of any such report. However, in World Bank's World Development Report 1993 it has been indicated that the total health expenditure in India and China is $ 18 billion and $ 13 billion respectively. The health outcomes are dependent on many factors other than the total expenditure on health. The level of public sector investment in health, extent of poverty, nutrition, education, sanitation and drinking water supply are equally important. Hence a comparison based on total health expenditure can not be made.

(b) Government has not conducted any study/enquiry in this regard. However, Government is closely monitoring the utilisation of health outlays.

(c) Government continously reviews the health facilities and takes appropriate action in consultation with the States.

Increasing Number of Medical Colleges in the Country

1148. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is having maximum number of medical colleges as compared to the other countries and their number is still increasing;

(b) whether it is also a fact that with the increase of medical colleges the standard of medical education in colleges is going down and Indian doctors have to pass certain examination when they go to other countries; if